Sentence Templates

Our words are very important, especially when it comes to creating strong, thoughtful papers. Many times, the format is foreign, and assistance is needed to take that next step with sentence structure. These suggestions are here for just that: to suggest. Please note there are hundreds of other ways for writers to say what they want. Also, please make sure the sentence flows after using these. If it does not flow, tweak the sentence until it works.

Introducing what “they” say

• Negative
  o A number of sociologists have recently suggested that X’s work has several fundamental problems.
  o It has become common today to dismiss X’s contribution to the field of sociology.
  o In their recent work, Y and Z have offered harsh critiques of X for________.

• Positive
  o In many circles, X has been heralded by the leaders of this industry for his or her ideas on________.
  o Y and Z offer high praise in their most recent work for X’s thoughts on________.

Introducing the “standard view”

• Americans today tend to believe that______.
• Conventional wisdom has it that______.
• Common sense seems to dictate that______.
• The standard way of thinking about topic X has it that______.
• It is often said/thought/believed that______.
• Many people assumed that______.

Introducing something implied or assumed

• Although none of them have ever said so directly, teachers often give the impression that______.
• One implication of X’s treatment of______ is that______.
• Although X does not say so directly, she apparently assumes that______.
• While he rarely admits as much, Y often takes for granted that______.

Introducing an ongoing debate

• In discussions of X, one controversial issue has been_______. On the one hand,______ argues _______, while on the other hand,______ presents that_______. Others even maintain_______.
• When it comes to the topic of_______, most would readily agree that_______. Where this agreement usually ends, however, is on the question of_______. Where some are convinced that_______, others maintain that_______.
• As suggested previously, defenders of_______cannot have it both ways. Their assertion that_______ is contradicted by their claim that_______.

Introducing quotations

- X states, “______.”
- As the prominent philosopher X puts it, “______.”
- According to X, “______.”
- X himself writes, “______.”
- In her book,______, X maintains that “______.”
- Writing in the journal______, X complains that “______.”
- In X’s view, “______.”
- X agrees when she writes, “______.”
- X disagrees when he writes, “______.”
- X complicates matters further when he writes, “______.”

Explaining quotations

- Basically, X is saying______.
- In other words, X believes______.
- In making this comment, X argues that______.
- X is insisting that______.
- X’s point is that______.
- The essence of X’s argument is that______.

Disagreeing, with reasons

- X is mistaken because she overlooks______.
- X’s claim that______rests upon the questionable assumption that______.
- X contradicts herself/cannot have it both ways. On the one hand, she argues_______. However, on the other hand, she also presents______.
- By focusing on______, X overlooks the deeper problem of______.
- X claims_______, but this claim is unnecessary. Anyone familiar with_______has long known that______.

Agreeing—with a difference

- X is surely right about______because, as she may not be aware, recent studies have shown that______.
- X’s theory of_______is extremely useful because it sheds insight on the difficult problem of______.
- _______is a point that needs emphasizing since so many people believe______.
- Those unfamiliar with this school of thought may be interested to know that, in simplest terms, it is______.
- If group X is right that______, then the popular assumption of______needs to be reassessed.

Agreeing and disagreeing simultaneously

- Although X’s argument is agreeable to a point, his overall conclusion of______is unacceptable.
- While X says many things that can be disproved, his final conclusion of______can be supported.
- Though it can be conceded that______, it must be insisted that______.
• Whereas X provides ample evidence that______, Y and Z’s research on______ and______ points to the conclusion______ instead.
• X is right that______, but she seems on more dubious ground when she claims that______.
• While X is probably wrong when she claims that______, her claim that______ seems to be sound.

**Signal phrases**
- X argues______.
- According to both X and Y,______.
- Most athletes will say that______.
- But______ is real and, arguably, the most significant factor in______.
- X is wrong in that______.
- However, it is simply not true that______.
- Indeed, it is highly likely that______.
- The view that______ does not fit all the facts______.
- X is right/wrong that______.
- A sober analysis of the matter reveals______.
- Nevertheless, new research shows______.
- Anyone familiar with______ should see that______.

**Embedding voice markers**
- X overlooks what is considered an important point about______.
- These conclusions, which X discusses in______, add weight to the argument that______.

**Entertaining objections**
- Yet, some individuals may challenge the view that_______. After all, many believe_______. A sound argument for_______ must not ignore_______ and_______.
- Of course, many would probably disagree with this assertion on the grounds that______.

**Naming your naysayers**
- Here, many feminists would probably object that_______.
- However, social Darwinists would certainly take issues with the argument that___________.
- Biologists, of course, may want to dispute the claim that_______.
- Nevertheless, both followers and critics of Malcolm X will probably argue that___________.
- Although not all Christians think alike, many would probably dispute the claim that___________.
- Non-native English speakers are so diverse in their views that it is hard to generalize about them, but some are likely to object on the grounds that___________.

**Making concessions while still standing your ground**
- Proponents of X are right to argue that_______. However, they exaggerate when they claim that_______.
- While it is true that__________, it does not necessarily follow that__________.
Indicating who cares

- ________ used to think _________. Recently/within the past few decades, _________ suggests that _________.
- What this new research does, then, is correct the mistaken impression held by many researchers that _________.
- These findings challenge the work of earlier researchers, who assumed that _________.
- Recent studies like these shed new light on _________, which previous studies had not addressed.
- Researchers have long assumed that _________. For instance, one eminent scholar of cell biology, _________, assumes in _______, her seminal work on cell structures and functions, that fat cells _________. As _________, herself, puts it, “___” (citation). Another leading scientist, _________, argues that fat cells “_______” (citation). Ultimately, in previous years, when it came down to the nature of fat, the basic assumption was that _________. Recently, a new body of research shows that fat cells are far more complex and that _________.
- If sports enthusiasts stopped to think about it, many of them might simply assume that the most successful athletes _______. However, new research shows _________.
- These findings challenge dieters’ common assumptions that _________.
- At first glance, teenagers appear to _______. On closer inspection, they _________.

Establishing why your claims matter

- X matters/is important because _________.
- Although X may seem trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today’s concern over _________.
- Ultimately, what is at stake here is _________.
- These findings have important consequences for the broader scope of _________.
- The discussion of X is, in fact, addressing the larger issue of _________.
- Although X may seem to be a concern to only a small group of _________, it should concern anyone who cares about _________.

Adding meta-commentary

- In other words, _________.
- What _________. really means by this is _________.
- To put it another way, _________.
- In short, _________.
- For example, _________.
- This is not to say _________. but rather _________.
- Incidentally, _________.

Source: